

1 **TOOL COATING WITH COLORED PATTERNS**

2 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

3 1. Field of the Invention

4 The present invention relates to a tool coating, and more particularly to a
5 tool coating with an exterior surface having colored patterns bonded to the
6 surface without regard to the shape of the surface.

7 2. Description of Related Art

8 A conventional tool such as a wrench used to turn a bolt, is usually made
9 of metal and a handle that is covered by a tool coating. The functions of the tool
10 coating include but are not limited to improving a person's grip on the tool,
11 insulating the tool and decorating the tool. The tool coating usually has a shape
12 and a feel to allow a user to grip the tool safely, easily and comfortably.

13 Tool coatings are available in two basic types depending on how the tool
14 coating is fabricated. Tool coatings may be fabricated and applied by dipping the
15 handle or handles of tool into a liquid plastic or polymer material, removing the
16 handle or handles of the tool from the liquid material and allowing a film of the
17 liquid material covering the handle or handles to dry or cure. After the film dries
18 or cures, a dipped tool coating is formed on the tool. Alternatively, tool coatings
19 may be made by molding plastic or polymer material to form cast tool coatings.
20 Dipped tool coatings have a shape similar to the handle or handles of the coated
21 tool. However, the cast tool coating may be used to alter the shape of the handle.

22 To make tool coatings more attractive and identify the tools, colored
23 patterns, letters, numbers, figures or any combination are printed on a surface of
24 a tool coating. A conventional printing technique requires that the colored

1 patterns, letters, numbers, figures or combination be printed on flat surfaces
2 instead of curved surfaces. Conventional tool coatings have very few flat
3 surfaces so printing on the surface of the tool coatings is difficult, especially
4 when the colored patterns, letters, numbers, figures or combination be printed
5 intricate and need precision printing. Therefore, printing on tool coatings is often
6 restricted to flat surfaces of the tool coating. Printing the patterns, letters,
7 numbers, figures or combination in color with conventional printing techniques
8 results in poor quality, unfocused images so as the appearance of the tool coating
9 is not attractive.

10 To overcome the shortcomings, the present invention provides a tool
11 coating to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

12 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

13 One objective of the invention is to provide a tool coating with colored
14 patterns wherein characters and figures composed of a colored pattern layer of
15 the tool coating are more colorful and distinct and make the tool coating look
16 more attractive and beautiful.

17 Another objective of the invention is to provide a tool coating with
18 characters and figures that can be positioned at any location on the tool coating.
19 Consequently, the colored patterns, characters and figures can be seen easily,
20 which makes identifying the tool easy.

21 A tool coating with colored patterns in accordance with the present
22 invention comprises a tool coating body, at least one colored pattern layer, and at
23 least one optional composite layer.

24 The at least one colored pattern layer is applied to a surface of the tool

1 coating.

2 Further benefits and advantages of the present invention will become
3 apparent after a careful reading of the detailed description with appropriate
4 reference to the accompanying drawings.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

6 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a pair of pliers with a tool coating with
7 colored patterns in accordance with the present invention;

8 Fig. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional partial top view of a tool handle in
9 Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 3 is a side view of a wrench with a second embodiment of a tool
11 coating with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention;

12 Fig. 4 is a side view of a pair of pliers with a third embodiment of a tool
13 coating with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention; and

14 Fig 5 is a side view of a pair of pliers with a fourth embodiment of a tool
15 coating with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention.

16 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

17 With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, a tool coating with colored patterns in
18 accordance with the present invention is mounted on a handle (21) of a tool (20),
19 comprises a tool coating foundation (11), at least one colored pattern layer (13),
20 and an optional transparent film (19). The tool coating foundation (11) has a
21 surface (not numbered).

22 The at least one colored pattern layer (13) is soft and pliable, has a front
23 (not numbered), a back (not numbered), a printed dye layer (17) and an adhesive
24 layer (15), is attached to the surface of the tool coating foundation (11).

1 The printed dye layer (17) has a front (not numbered) and a back (not
2 numbered) and may have colorful characters and figures.

3 The adhesive layer (15) is formed on the back of the printed dye layer
4 (17), attaches the printed dye layer (17) to the surface of the tool coating
5 foundation (11), has a back (not numbered) and may be glue or another adhesive.
6 A releasable film may be removably mounted on the back of the adhesive layer
7 (15). The releasable film may be releasable paper or other non-sticking synthetic
8 film.

9 The at least one colored pattern layer (13) is attached to the surface of
10 the tool coating foundation (11) by separating the releasable paper from the back
11 of the at least one colored pattern layer (13) and pressing the colored pattern
12 layer (13) securely against the surface.

13 The optional transparent film (19) keeps the at least one colored pattern
14 layer (13) from being damaged and is a liquid composite material. The optional
15 transparent film (19) may be applied by dipping the tool handle (21) with the at
16 least one colored pattern layer (13) into the liquid composite material or
17 brushing or spraying the liquid composite material onto the at least one colored
18 pattern layer (13).

19 With further reference to Fig. 3 a second embodiment of the tool coating
20 with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention applied to a tool
21 (30) is a dipped tool coating and has a colored pattern layer (33).

22 With further reference to Fig. 4, a third embodiment of the tool coating
23 with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention applied to a tool
24 (40) is a dipped tool coating and has two color pattern layers (43).

1 With further reference to Fig. 5, a fourth embodiment of the tool coating
2 with colored patterns in accordance with the present invention applied to a tool
3 (50) is a cast tool coating and has a colored pattern layer (53).

4 The present invention has the following improvements.

5 1. The at least one colored pattern layer with colorful and exquisite
6 characters and figures may be applied to any the surface of the tool coating
7 mounted on the tool to decorate the tool make the tool more attractive.

8 2. The color pattern layers are soft and pliable so they readily conform to
9 any flat or curved surface of the tool coating body. Therefore, the characters and
10 figures of the colored pattern layer may be placed at any desired position on the
11 tool coating body.

12 Even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present
13 invention have been set forth in the foregoing description together with details of
14 the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and
15 changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and
16 arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent
17 indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended
18 claims are expressed.